

same time imposing strict ethical standards.

House Republicans refused to listen to our Nation's leading scientists, biomedical researchers, and health organizations who said this legislation can save lives. More importantly, they refused to listen to the pleas of their own constituents. Instead, they once again supported a President who has no interest in giving our researchers the tools they need to find cures to diseases like cancer, diabetes, and Alzheimer's. They were pandering to a very narrow part of their base. Shame on them.

RAISE THE MINIMUM WAGE

(Mr. AL GREEN of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, today I speak for the least among us. And in speaking for them, I remind us that it is time for us to raise the minimum wage. That is "raise" as in r-a-i-s-e, not raze as in r-a-z-e, because there are people in this country who would raze, who would decimate, not elevate, who would decimate the minimum wage.

Mr. Speaker, these people are not among those 37 million who are living in poverty. They are not among the millions who make \$5.15 an hour. They are not among those who suffer and languish in poverty with no way out.

Mr. Speaker, those who make \$5.15 an hour work through Christmas. They work through Easter. They work through Thanksgiving. And they make, at the end of the year, \$10,712.

Mr. Speaker, it is time to raise the minimum wage. I speak for the least, the last, and the lost.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote is objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken later today.

CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2006

Mr. HERGER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill (S. 3525) to amend subpart 2 of part B of title IV of the Social Security Act to improve outcomes for children in families affected by methamphetamine abuse and addiction, to reauthorize the promoting safe and stable families program, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

S. 3525

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Child and Family Services Improvement Act of 2006".

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

The Congress finds as follows:

(1) For Federal fiscal year 2004, child protective services (CPS) staff nationwide reported investigating or assessing an estimated 3,000,000 allegations of child maltreatment, and determined that 872,000 children had been abused or neglected by their parents or other caregivers.

(2) Combined, the Child Welfare Services (CWS) and Promoting Safe and Stable Families (PSSF) programs provide States about \$700,000,000 per year for services intended to ensure the safety, permanency, and well-being of children. These programs are considered the largest source of targeted Federal funding in the child protection system for prevention—that is, for services to ensure that children are not abused or neglected and, whenever possible, help children remain safely with their families.

(3) States have broad flexibility in directing CWS dollars to protect children from abuse and neglect. Under the PSSF program, States must invest significant portions of program funds in family preservation services, family support services, time-limited reunification services, and post-adoption support services.

(4) However, a 2003 report by the Government Accountability Office (GAO) reported that little research is available on the effectiveness of activities supported by CWS funds—evaluations of services supported by PSSF funds have generally shown little or no effect.

(5) Further, the Department of Health and Human Services recently completed initial Child and Family Service Reviews (CFSRs) in each State. No State was in full compliance with all measures of the CFSRs. The CFSRs also revealed that States need to work to prevent repeat abuse and neglect of children, improve services provided to families to reduce the risk of future harm (including by better monitoring the participation of families in services), and strengthen upfront services provided to families to prevent unnecessary family break-up and protect children who remain at home.

(6) Federal policy should ensure that States are appropriately targeting CWS and PSSF funds to assist at-risk families and protect abused and neglected children to address issues found in the CFSRs. Encouraging States to invest their CWS and PSSF funds in services that promote and protect the welfare of children, support strong, healthy families, and reduce the reliance on out-of-home care, will help ensure all children are raised in safe, loving families.

(7) CFSRs also found a strong correlation between frequent caseworker visits with children and positive outcomes for these children, such as timely achievement of permanency and other indicators of child well-being.

(8) However, a December 2005 report by the Department of Health and Human Services Office of Inspector General found that only 20 States were able to produce reports to show whether caseworkers actually visited children in foster care on at least a monthly basis, despite the fact that nearly all States had written standards suggesting monthly visits were State policy. In fact, 7 of these 20 States indicated that fewer than half of the children in foster care were visited on a monthly basis.

(9) The Deficit Reduction Act of 2005 provided \$40,000,000 in fiscal year 2006 for the PSSF program which this Act ensures will be available and which the Congressional Budget Office estimates will increase manda-

tory budget authority by \$40,000,000 each year from 2006 through 2015, for a total of \$400,000,000.

(10) A 2003 GAO report found that the average tenure for a child welfare caseworker is less than 2 years and this level of turnover negatively affects safety and permanency for children.

(11) Targeting additional PSSF funds to ensure children in foster care are visited on at least a monthly basis will promote better outcomes for vulnerable children, including by preventing further abuse and neglect.

SEC. 3. REAUTHORIZATION OF THE SAFE AND STABLE FAMILIES PROGRAM.

(a) ELIMINATION OF FINDINGS.—Section 430 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 629) is amended by striking all through "(b) PURPOSE.—The purpose" and inserting the following:

"SEC. 430. PURPOSE.

"The purpose".

(b) LIMITATION ON ADMINISTRATIVE COST REIMBURSEMENT.—Section 434 of such Act (42 U.S.C. 629d) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by inserting ", subject to subsection (d)," after "shall"; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

"(d) LIMITATION ON REIMBURSEMENT FOR ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS.—The Secretary shall not make a payment to a State under this section with respect to expenditures for administrative costs during a fiscal year, to the extent that the total amount of the expenditures exceeds 10 percent of the total expenditures of the State during the fiscal year under the State plan approved under section 432.".

(c) FUNDING OF MANDATORY GRANTS AT \$345 MILLION PER FISCAL YEAR.—Section 436(a) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 629f(a)) is amended by striking "for fiscal year 2006." and all that follows and inserting "for each of fiscal years 2007 through 2011.".

(d) FUNDING OF DISCRETIONARY GRANTS.—Section 437(a) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 629g(a)) is amended by striking "2002 through 2006" and inserting "2007 through 2011".

(e) INCREASE IN SET-ASIDES FOR INDIAN TRIBES.—

(1) MANDATORY GRANTS.—Section 436(b)(3) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 629f(b)(3)) is amended by striking "1" and inserting "3".

(2) DISCRETIONARY GRANTS.—Section 437(b)(3) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 629g(b)(3)) is amended by striking "2" and inserting "3".

(f) COLLECTION OF DATA ON TRIBAL PROMOTING SAFE AND STABLE FAMILIES PLANS.—Section 432(b)(2) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 629b(b)(2)) is amended—

(1) by striking subparagraph (A); and

(2) in subparagraph (B), by striking "Notwithstanding subparagraph (A) of this paragraph, the" and inserting "The".

(g) AUTHORITY OF INTERTRIBAL CONSORTIA TO APPLY FOR GRANTS.—Section 432(b)(2) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 629b(b)(2)), as amended by subsection (f) of this section, is amended—

(1) by inserting before subparagraph (B) the following:

"(A) INTERTRIBAL CONSORTIA.—This subpart shall not be interpreted to preclude the development and submission of a single tribal plan under this subpart by the participating tribes of an intertribal consortium."; and

(2) in subparagraph (B)—

(A) by inserting "or tribal consortium" after "Indian tribe"; and

(B) by inserting "and tribal consortia" after "Indian tribes".

(h) TECHNICAL CORRECTION.—Section 431(a)(6) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 629a(a)(6)) is amended by striking "1986" and inserting "1996".